

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI
ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 728 OF 2023**

IN THE MATTER OF:

IN RE: NEWS ITEM APPEARING IN HINDUSTAN DATED 30.11.2023
TITLED "ARSENIC FOUND IN GROUNDWATER IN 25 STATES,
FLUORIDE IN 27 STATES: GOVT."

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Date: 14.02.2024

Place: New Delhi

Filed By:



Pukhrambam Ramesh Kumar
Advocate for State of Manipur

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SHORT AFFIDAVIT ON BEHALF OF THE STATE OF MANIPUR

I, Dr. Vineet Joshi (IAS), Chief Secretary, Government of Manipur do hereby solemnly affirm and sincerely state as follows:

- I. That, I am presently serving in the aforesaid capacity and am well conversant with the issues raised by this Hon'ble Court in the present Original Application and as such I am authorized to swear this affidavit on behalf of the State of Manipur.
- II. That, this Hon'ble Tribunal vide order dated 20.12.2023 impleaded certain States and UTs as Respondents and issued notice to them in the aforementioned Original Application.
- III. That, it is respectfully submitted that as per the Report submitted by the Central Ground Water Board there are 230 districts in 25 states/UTs across the country where instances of one or more Arsenic contamination have been detected. With respect to the State of Manipur 2 (two) districts namely Bishnupur and Thoubal, are found to have arsenic contamination in the groundwater.



Vineet Joshi

- IV. That, it is further submitted that the aforesaid Report indicated that there are 469 districts in 27 States/UTs across the country where instances of one or more Fluoride contamination have been detected. With respect to the State of Manipur, as per the Report, only 1 (one) district namely Thoubal district, is found to have localized occurrence of Fluoride in groundwater.
- V. That, it is submitted that State Ground Water Authority for the State of Manipur is not constituted yet and since the State is still under the authority of Regional Office of North Eastern Region (Central Ground Water Board), Guwahati, the Administrative wing of Minor Irrigation Department sought a report from them.
- VI. That, it is humbly submitted that Regional Director of North Eastern Region (Central Ground Water Board), Guwahati submitted its report with respect to the contamination of fluoride and arsenic in the water sample collected from the state. As per their findings during its Aquifer mapping studies, 2017-2018 higher concentrations of fluoride and arsenic in a few of the shallow tube wells and dug wells in the Thoubal district of Manipur were reported. The Report stated that except for a few local patchy occurrences of fluoride, arsenic and Iron groundwater was potable and good for domestic, agricultural and industrial uses.

Further, the report suggests that fluoride content in the groundwater varied from 0.24 to 1.8 mg/l (or ppm), in which one water sample collected from STW at Mairambam village has shown concentration of fluoride as 1.8 mg/l (or



Vineet Dahi

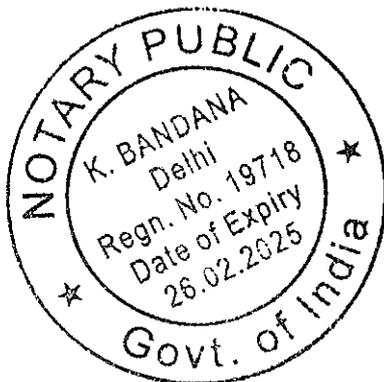
ppm) which is slightly beyond permissible limit of BIS (ie. 1.5 mg/l).

With respect to Arsenic concentration in groundwater in only one location at Phundrei village in Kakching/Thoubal district of Manipur was found as 0.0234 mg/l (or ppm) which is slightly beyond permissible limit of BIS (i.e. 0.01 mg/l).

Further, the report indicated that arsenic content in shallow groundwater was reported in a few locations of Thoubal and Bishnupur districts during District Ground Water Management Studies, 2004-05 of CGWB, NER, Guwahati. However, the shallow tube wells have already been abandoned and not in use for the last many years.

A true and correct copy of the Report dated 08.02.2024 submitted by Regional Director, Central Ground water Board is annexed hereto and marked as **Annexure-A [pg. 5]**

VII. That, the answering Deponent humbly prays that the instant affidavit on behalf of the State of Manipur may kindly be taken on record. The Deponent further undertakes to comply with the directions that may be passed by this Hon'ble Tribunal from time to time during the course of the hearing of the present matter.

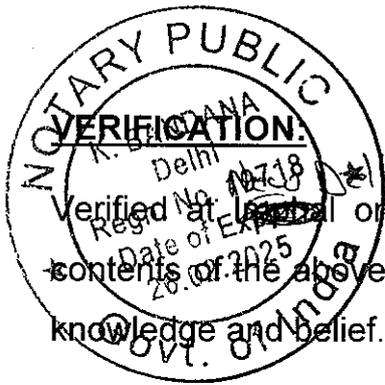


Vineet Dahi

DEPONENT

Chief Secretary

Government of Manipur



Verified at Delhi on this
 contents of the above affidavit are true and correct to the best of my
 knowledge and belief.

14 FEB 2024

Vineet Singh

DEPONENT

Chief Secretary

Government of Manipur

IDENTIFIED

14 FEB 2024



ATTESTED -
NOTARY PUBLIC DELHI
 Govt. of India
 Mob.: 9654768498

Government of India
 MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI
 Department of Water Resources, RD & GR
 CENTRAL GROUND WATER BOARD
 North Eastern Region
 BHUJAL BHAWAN, Betkuchi, Opp. ISBT
 Guwahati -781 035



भारत सरकार

जल शक्ति मंत्रालय

जल संसाधन, नदी विकास और गंगा संरक्षण विभाग

केन्द्रीय भूमि जल बोर्ड, पूर्वांचल क्षेत्र

भुजल भवन, बेटकुची, आई एस बी टी के सामने

गुवाहाटी - 781 035

No. CGWB/NER/AAP/01-2024 - 1993
 Dated 8th February 2024

To

✓The Joint Secretary (MI) to the Govt. of Manipur
 Minor Irrigation Department
 New Secretariat, Imphal 795001

Subj:- Notice in original Application No.828/2023 IN RE : News items appearing in Hindustan dated 30-11.2023 titled "Arsenic found in ground water in 25 states, fluoride in 27 State Govt."
 Ref. No. AM-201/1/2024-MI-MI dated 31.01.2024

Madam,

In inviting the Govt. of Manipur letter vide No. AM-201/1/2024-MI-MI dated 31.01.2024 on the subject cited above, the following is the compliance of the information :

As per the findings of Central Ground Water Board, North Eastern Region, Guwahati during its Aquifer mapping studies, 2017-18 under National Project on Aquifer Management 1.0 (NAQUIM 1.0), higher concentration of fluoride(F) and arsenic (As) in few of the shallow tube wells (STW) and dug wells (DW) in Thoubal district of Manipur has been reported. Except a few local patchy occurrences of fluoride(F), arsenic (As) and iron (Fe), ground water is potable, and good for domestic, agricultural, and industrial uses.

Fluoride content in the groundwater varied from 0.24 to 1.8 mg/l (or ppm), in which one water sample collected from STW at Mairambam village has shown concentration of fluoride(F) as 1.8 mg/l (or ppm) which is slightly beyond permissible limit of BIS (i.e. 1.5mg/l).

Arsenic concentration in groundwater in only one location at Phundrei village in Kakching*/Thoubal district in Manipur was found as 0.0234 mg/l (or, ppm) which is slightly beyond permissible limit of BIS (i.e. 0.01 mg/l). [* Now, Thoubal district was divided into Thoubal and Kakching districts].

Arsenic content in shallow groundwater was reported in few locations of Thoubal and Bishnupur districts during District Ground Water Management Studies, 2004-05 of CGWB, NER, Guwahati. However, the shallow tube wells have already been abandoned and not in used for the last many years.

It is suggested that exploration of deeper groundwater sources like deep tube wells (DTWs) need to be taken up to access arsenic-free water. Similarly, alternative water sources such as treated surface water or rainwater harvesting (RWH) could provide arsenic-free water in affected areas.

Yours faithfully,

(Dr. S S Singh)

Scientist-D (HG)

For Regional Director

Copy to:-

1. TS to the Regional Director, CGWB, NER, Guwahati
2. The Chief Engineer, MID, Govt. of Manipur